

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

MULTILAYER BOARD IN WHICH WIRING OF SIGNAL LINE THAT REQUIRES
TAMPER-RESISTANCE IS COVERED BY COMPONENT OR FOIL, DESIGN
APPARATUS, METHOD, AND PROGRAM FOR THE MULTILAYER
5 BOARD, AND MEDIUM RECORDING THE PROGRAM

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

(1) Field of the Invention

10 The present invention relates to a multilayer board that
is highly tamper-resistant, and a design apparatus, method, an
program for the multilayer board.

(2) Description of the Related Art

15 Recently, contents of various fields such as music, still
images, moving images, and games have been distributed as digital
information thanks to the development of digital information
technology and widespread use of digital information
communication infrastructures.

20 Meanwhile, there has always been the fear that the digital
contents are acquired by an unauthorized party by means of
interception of communications, wiretapping, or disguise, and
that the acquired contents are tampered or copied illegally in
recording media. It is therefore very important in protecting

the right of copyright owners or profits of distributors that any devices to deal with such contents are tamper-resistant, namely, difficult to unauthorized accesses.

Various conventional security technologies are available to make a communication medium tamper-resistant. For example, in a challenge-response type mutual authentication, a transmitting side and a receiving side authenticate themselves by exchanging a random number and a response value, and only when the authentication succeeds, security data protected by copyright is allowed to be transferred between them.

Not only communication media but also multilayer boards containing semiconductors for reproducing contents require tamper-resistance. This is because information passing signal lines on multilayer boards may be probed and reproduced. To make multilayer boards tamper-resistant, therefore, signal lines, which transfer security signals (contents, signals used for authentication, etc.), need be tamper-resistant.

The following methods are known to be used for making such signal lines on multilayer boards tamper-resistant.

- (1) All functions contained in a multilayer board are achieved by a one-chip IC so that any security signal does not transferred directly on the multilayer board.
- (2) Encryption and decryption processes are embedded into

components on the multilayer board. More specifically,
a logic for encrypting security signals is embedded into
a component for outputting security signals, and a logic
for decrypting security signals is embedded into a component
for inputting security signals.

- (3) Signal lines for transferring security signals on the
multilayer board are coated with resin.

Each of the above three methods, however, is to increase
the cost since in the first method, existing ICs cannot be used,
in the second method, logics for encryption and decryption need
be embedded into corresponding components, and in the third
method, resin is required as an additional material.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The object of the present invention is therefore to provide
a highly tamper-resistant multilayer board, without increasing
the production cost.

The above object is fulfilled by a multilayer board,
comprising a signal line requiring tamper-resistance, the signal
line including: (a) a conductive trace and (b) a conductive via
that passes through layers of the multilayer board, wherein
the conductive trace and an end of the conductive via existing
on an outside layer of the multilayer board are placed under

one or more circuit components mounted on the outside layer.

The above-described construction achieves a highly
tamper-resistant multilayer board in which signal lines
requiring tamper-resistance on outside layers are difficult to
5 contact probing.

In the above multilayer board, the signal line may further
include a conductive trace on an inner layer that is sandwiched
between sheets of foil and/or circuit components placed on layers
above and below the inner layer so that the sheets of foil and/or
10 circuit components hide the conductive trace on the inner layer
when viewed from above or below.

The above-described construction achieves a highly
tamper-resistant multilayer board in which signal lines
requiring tamper-resistance on inside layers are difficult to
15 non-contact probing such as magnetic probing.

In the above multilayer board, the sheets of foil placed
on the layers that are outside the inner layer may be connected
to either a ground or a power source.

The above-described construction achieves a highly
20 tamper-resistant multilayer board by enhancing the shielding
effect and making the multilayer board to non-contact probing.

In the above multilayer board, the conductive trace on
the outside layer may be further covered by a circuit component

on another outside layer when viewed from above or below.

The above-described construction achieves a highly
tamper-resistant multilayer board in which signal lines
requiring tamper-resistance on one outside layer are difficult
5 to non-contact probing tried from the outside layer and the
opposite outside layer.

In the above multilayer board, the signal line requiring
tamper-resistance may be either a signal line that is input to
an encryption unit or a signal line that is output from a decryption
10 unit.

The above-described construction achieves a highly
tamper-resistant multilayer board in which signal lines
transferring security signals requiring encryption are
tamper-resistant.

15 The above object is also fulfilled by a multilayer board,
comprising: a certain signal line that includes (a) a conductive
trace and (b) a conductive via that passes through layers of
the multilayer board, wherein the conductive trace and an end
of the conductive via existing on an outside layer of the
20 multilayer board are placed under one or more circuit components
mounted on the outside layer, the certain signal line further
includes a conductive trace on an inner layer that is sandwiched
between sheets of foil and/or circuit components placed on layers

above and below the inner layer so that the sheets of foil and/or circuit components hide the conductive trace on the inner layer when viewed from above or below, and the certain signal line is either a data line or an address line.

5 The above-described construction achieves a high tamper-resistance in a multilayer board in which security signals are transferred through a plurality of signal lines since all data signal lines and address signal lines on the multilayer board are hidden under components or sandwiched between
10 components or sheets of foil. This construction also makes it difficult for one to identify a signal line among the plurality of signal lines that is transferring a security signal, achieving a highly tamper-resistant multilayer board.

 The above object is also fulfilled by a design apparatus
15 for a multilayer board, the design apparatus comprising: a component information acquiring means for acquiring component information that shows (a) positions of circuit components, (b) sizes of the components, and (c) terminals contained by the components; a tamper-resistant signal line specifying means for
20 specifying a signal line that requires tamper-resistance, among signal lines connecting terminals; an outside layer wiring setting means for referring to the component information and setting areas on outside layers covered by circuit components

as outside layer wiring possible areas; a via setting means for referring to the component information, detecting an area where a first outside area wiring possible area of one outside layer overlaps another outside area wiring possible area of a second outside layer that is opposite to the first outside layer, when viewed from above or below in a vertical direction, and sets the detected area as a via possible area; and a wiring information generating means for determining a wiring pattern so that signal lines requiring tamper-resistance are wired only in the outside layer wiring possible areas and the via possible area, and generating wiring information that shows the determined wiring pattern.

With the above-described construction, it is possible to design a highly tamper-resistant multilayer board in which signal lines requiring tamper-resistance on outside layers are difficult to contact probing since it is possible to design a wiring pattern so that signal lines requiring tamper-resistance are hidden under components on outside layers, after positions of components are determined.

The above multilayer board may further comprise an inside layer wiring setting means for referring to the component information, detecting an area where a first outside area wiring possible area of one outside layer overlaps another outside area

wiring possible area of a second outside layer that is opposite to the first outside layer, when viewed from above or below in a vertical direction, and sets the detected area as an inside layer wiring possible area, wherein the wiring information

5 generating means determines the wiring pattern so that signal lines requiring tamper-resistance are wired only in the outside layer wiring possible areas, the via possible areas, and the inside layer wiring possible area, and generates the wiring information that shows the determined wiring pattern.

10 With the above-described construction, it is possible to design a highly tamper-resistant multilayer board in which signal lines requiring tamper-resistance are difficult to non-contact probing since it is possible to design a wiring pattern so that such signal lines in inside layers are sandwiched between

15 components on two outside layers, after positions of components are determined.

The above multilayer board may further comprise an opposite layer wiring setting means for referring to the component information and setting areas on one outside layer covered by

20 components as opposite layer wiring possible areas, wherein the wiring information generating means determines the wiring pattern so that signal lines requiring tamper-resistance are wired in areas on another outside layer that is opposite to the

outside layer, the areas on the other outside layer overlapping the opposite layer wiring possible areas when viewed from above or below in a vertical direction.

With the above-described construction, it is possible to design a highly tamper-resistant multilayer board in which signal lines requiring tamper-resistance on an outside layer are difficult to non-contact probing performed from the opposite outside layer since it is possible to design a wiring pattern so that such signal lines are hidden under components on the opposite outside layer when viewed from above or below in a vertical direction.

The above object is also fulfilled by a design apparatus for a multilayer board, the design apparatus comprising: a board information acquiring means for acquiring board information that shows (a) the number of layers and (b) ground/power-source layers; a tamper-resistant signal line specifying means for specifying a signal line requiring tamper-resistance; an inside layer wiring setting means for referring to the board information and setting layers sandwiched between two ground/power-source layers as wiring possible inside layers; and a wiring information generating means for determining a wiring pattern so that signal lines requiring tamper-resistance are wired in the wiring possible inside layers, and generating wiring information that

shows the determined wiring pattern.

With the above-described construction, it is possible to design a highly tamper-resistant multilayer board in which signal lines requiring tamper-resistance are difficult to non-contact probing since it is possible to design a wiring pattern so that such signal lines in inside layers are sandwiched between ground/power-source layers, after positions of components connecting to the signal lines and a wiring pattern of the signal lines are determined.

10 The above object is also fulfilled by a design apparatus for a multilayer board, the design apparatus comprising: a board information acquiring means for acquiring board information that shows (a) wiring of signal lines that require tamper-resistance and (b) positions of components connected to the signal lines; 15 an exposed portion detecting means for referring to the board information and detecting portions of the signal lines that are not covered by the components connected to the signal lines on outside layers; and a placement information generating means for determining a placement pattern so that one or more components 20 that have not been placed yet are placed to cover the detected portions, and generating placement information that shows the determined placement pattern.

With the above-described construction, it is possible to

design a highly tamper-resistant multilayer board in which signal lines requiring tamper-resistance on outside layers are difficult to contact probing since if a portion of such signal lines not hidden under a component on an outside layer is detected after positions of components connecting to the signal lines and a wiring pattern of the signal lines are determined, it is possible to place any components not having been placed yet to cover the not-hidden portion.

The above design apparatus may further comprise an inside layer wiring detecting means for detecting portions of the signal lines wired on inside layers which are not sandwiched by the components on the outside layers when viewed from above or below in a vertical direction, wherein the placement information generating means determines the placement pattern so that one or more components on one or more outside layers that have not been placed yet are placed to cover the portions detected by the inside layer wiring detecting means when viewed from above or below, and generates the placement information that shows the determined placement pattern.

With the above-described construction, it is possible to design a highly tamper-resistant multilayer board in which signal lines requiring tamper-resistance are difficult to non-contact probing since if a portion of such signal lines in inside layers

that is not sandwiched between components on two outside layers is detected after positions of components connecting to the signal lines and a wiring pattern of the signal lines are determined, it is possible to place any components not having
5 been placed yet to sandwich the not-sandwiched portion.

The above design apparatus may further comprise an opposite layer exposed portion detecting means for referring to the board information and detecting portions of the signal lines that are wired on one outside layer and are not covered by components
10 connected to the signal lines on another outside layer that is opposite to the outside layer, wherein the placement information generating means determines the placement pattern so that one or more components on the opposite outside layer that have not been placed yet are placed to cover the portions detected by
15 the opposite layer exposed portion detecting means when viewed from above or below, and generates the placement information that shows the determined placement pattern.

With the above-described construction, it is possible to design a highly tamper-resistant multilayer board in which signal
20 lines requiring tamper-resistance are difficult to non-contact probing since if a portion of such signal lines on an outside layer that is not covered by any components on the opposite outside layer is detected after positions of components connecting to

the signal lines and a wiring pattern of the signal lines are determined, it is possible to place any components not having been placed yet on the opposite outside layer to cover the not-covered portion.

5 The above object is also fulfilled by a design apparatus for a multilayer board, the design apparatus comprising: a board information acquiring means for acquiring board information that shows (a) the number of layers and (b) wiring of signal lines; a tamper-resistant signal line specifying means for specifying
10 a signal line that requires tamper-resistance; a plane layer detecting means for detecting, as plane layers, two layers that sandwich a layer on which the signal line is wired; and a placement information generating means for determining a placement pattern so that sheets of foil on the plane layers cover the wiring of
15 the signal line sandwiched by the plane layers when viewed from above or below in a vertical direction, and generating placement information that shows the determined placement pattern.

 With the above-described construction, it is possible to design a highly tamper-resistant multilayer board in which signal
20 lines requiring tamper-resistance are difficult to non-contact probing since it is possible to determine a placement pattern of planes so as to sandwich wiring of the signal lines in inside layers, after a wiring pattern of the signal lines is determined.

The above object is also fulfilled by a design check apparatus for a multilayer board, the design check apparatus comprising: a board information acquiring means for acquiring board information that shows (a) wiring of a signal line that
 5 requires tamper-resistance and (b) placement of components; an exposed portion detecting means for referring to the board information and detecting portions of the signal line that are not covered by the components on outside layers; and a warning means for outputting a warning indicating the portions detected
 10 by the exposed portion detecting means.

With the above-described construction, it is possible to check whether a tamper-resistant design has been done since if a portion of a signal line that requires tamper-resistance but is not hidden under a component on an outside layer is detected,
 15 the portion is indicated by the warning, during or after a design of the multilayer board.

The above design check apparatus may further comprise: an inside layer uncovered portion detecting means for referring to the board information and detecting portions of the signal
 20 line in inside layers that are not sandwiched between components or sheets of foil placed on two outside layers when viewed from above or below in a vertical direction, wherein the warning means further outputs a warning that indicates the portions detected

by the inside layer uncovered portion detecting means.

With the above-described construction, it is possible to check whether a highly tamper-resistant design has been done since if a portion of such a signal line that is not sandwiched
5 between components or sheets of foil on two outside layers is detected, the portion is indicated by the warning, during or after a design of the multilayer board.

The above design check apparatus may further comprise: an opposite layer uncovered portion detecting means for referring
10 to the board information and detecting portions of the signal line that are wired on one outside layer and are not covered by components on another outside layer that is opposite to the outside layer when viewed from above or below in a vertical direction, wherein the warning means further outputs a warning
15 indicating the portions detected by the opposite layer uncovered portion detecting means.

With the above-described construction, it is possible to check whether a highly tamper-resistant design has been done since if a portion of such a signal line that is wired on one
20 outside layer and is not covered by components on the opposite outside layer is detected, the portion is indicated by the warning, during or after a design of the multilayer board.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

These and the other objects, advantages and features of the invention will become apparent from the following description thereof taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings which

5 illustrate a specific embodiment of the invention.

In the drawings:

FIG. 1 shows a circuit used in a digital image transmission system;

FIG. 2 shows the construction of a multilayer board in
10 Embodiment 1;

FIG. 3 shows the construction of a multilayer board in Embodiment 2;

FIG. 4 is a block diagram showing the construction of a design apparatus in Embodiment 3;

15 FIG. 5A is a cross section of the multilayer board;

FIG. 5B is a top plan view of the multilayer board;

FIG. 6A shows the board information;

FIG. 6B shows the component information;

FIG. 6C shows the terminal information;

20 FIG. 6D shows signal line information;

FIG. 7A shows an outside layer wiring possible area;

FIG. 7B shows a via possible area;

FIG. 7C shows an inside layer wiring possible area;

FIG. 8 shows generated wiring information;

FIG. 9 is a flowchart showing an operation procedure of the design apparatus of Embodiment 3;

FIG. 10 is a block diagram showing the construction of
5 a design apparatus in Embodiment 4;

FIG. 11 shows a six-layer board;

FIG. 12A shows the board information;

FIG. 12B shows the component information;

FIG. 12C shows the terminal information;

10 FIG. 12D shows signal line information;

FIG. 13 shows the inside layer wiring possible areas;

FIG. 14 shows generated wiring information;

FIG. 15 is a flowchart showing an operation procedure of the design apparatus of Embodiment 4;

15 FIG. 16 is a block diagram showing the construction of a design apparatus in Embodiment 5;

FIGS. 17A to 17C show processes in designing a four-layer board;

FIG. 18A shows the board information;

20 FIG. 18B shows the component information;

FIG. 18C shows the signal line information;

FIG. 19A shows the placement information that shows the determined positions of the components connecting to the signal

line requiring tamper-resistance;

FIG. 19B shows the wiring information;

FIG. 20 shows the exposed wiring;

FIG. 21 shows the generated placement information;

5 FIG. 22 is a flowchart showing an operation procedure of
the design apparatus of Embodiment 5;

FIG. 23 shows another method for placing components;

FIG. 24 is a block diagram showing the construction of
a design apparatus in Embodiment 6;

10 FIG. 25 shows a multilayer board;

FIG. 26A shows the board information;

FIG. 26B shows the component information;

FIG. 26C shows the terminal information;

FIG. 26D shows the signal line information;

15 FIG. 26E shows the wiring information;

FIG. 27A shows the detected tamper-resistant wiring area;

FIG. 27B shows the tamper-resistant ground/power-source
layers;

FIG. 28 shows the generated plane placement information;

20 FIG. 29 is a flowchart showing an operation procedure of
the design apparatus of Embodiment 6;

FIG. 30 is a block diagram showing the construction of
a wiring check apparatus in Embodiment 7;

data and clocks to the encryption/transmission component 12 via
signal lines 14 and 15, respectively. The
encryption/transmission component 12 encrypts the received
pixel data in accordance with the received clocks, and transmits
5 the encrypted data to a receiving circuit 20 via a cable 30.

The signal line 14 used to transfer pixel data to be
encrypted requires tamper-resistance so that the pixel data is
not copied in an unauthorized manner.

The receiving circuit 20 includes a reception/decryption
10 component 21 and an output interface component 22. The
reception/decryption component 21 receives and decrypts the
encrypted data to obtain pixel data. The reception/decryption
component 21 transmits the pixel data and clocks to the output
interface component 22 via signal lines 24 and 25, respectively.
15 The output interface component 22 converts the received pixel
data to a format dedicated to output, and outputs the converted
data as digital image data.

The signal line 24 used to transfer pixel data after the
decryption requires tamper-resistance so that the pixel data
20 is not copied in an unauthorized manner.

Up to now, examples of signal lines requiring
tamper-resistance in a circuit for transmitting digital image
data have been explained. However, the signal lines that require

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tamper-resistance are not limited to the above-described signal lines. The signal lines that require tamper-resistance include, in general, (a) signal lines used to transfer data before encryption to an encryption component and (b) signal lines used to transfer data after decryption that is output from a decryption component, for example. The signal lines that require tamper-resistance also include, in general, signal lines used to transfer data to be encrypted for prevention from being probed in an unauthorized manner.

10 Embodiment 1

Embodiment 1 relates to a multilayer board in which if a signal line that requires tamper-resistance has a portion that appears on an outside layer, the portion is placed under a component on the outside layer so as to be covered by the component.

Construction

FIG. 2 shows the construction of a multilayer board in Embodiment 1. The present embodiment describes the case of a six-layer board. As shown in FIG. 2, the multilayer board includes the first layer 116, the second layer 117, the third layer 118, the fourth layer 119, the fifth layer 120, and the sixth layer 121. Of these, the first layer 116 and the sixth layer 121 are outside layers and the other layers are inside

layers. It is supposed here that the signal line connecting
a terminal 102 of a component 101 with a terminal 115 of a component
114 that requires tamper-resistance. The signal line is
composed of foil 103 on an outside layer, a via 104, foil 111
5 on the third layer, a via 105, foil 112 on the fourth layer,
a via 106, and foil 113 on the sixth layer.

It should be noted here that in the following embodiments
Embodiment 1 inclusive, each foil constituting a signal line
is provided as an example, but any conductive trace may be used
10 instead of foil.

Out of the portions constituting the signal line that
requires tamper-resistance, the portions that exist on the
outside layers are placed under certain components. That is
to say, the foil 103 and an end of the via 104 are placed under
15 the component 101 on the first layer 116, an end of the via 105
is placed under the component 107 on the first layer 116, an
end of the via 106 is placed under the component 108 on the first
layer 116, the other end of the via 104 is placed under the
component 109 on the sixth layer 121, the other end of the via
20 105 is placed under the component 110 on the sixth layer 121,
and the foil 113 and the other end of the via 106 are placed
under the component 114 on the sixth layer 121.

Summary

As described above, in the multilayer board of the present embodiment, (a) sheets of foil that are placed on the outside layers and constitute such signal lines as require
5 tamper-resistance and (b) vias that pass through layers for connection and constitute such signal lines as require tamper-resistance are placed under certain components on the outside layers. This makes it difficult for anyone to probe the signal line by contact and achieves a highly tamper-resistant
10 multilayer board.

Variations

The present invention is not limited to the above-described embodiment and can be varied as follows.

(1) In the case of the present embodiment, only the vias that
15 pass through all layers constituting the multilayer board are used. However, such vias as pass through only certain layers among all the layers may be used. In this case, the ends of the vias on the outside layers are placed under certain components so that the ends are not exposed to outside.

20 (2) In the case of the present embodiment, a six-layer board is used as a multilayer board. However, the number of the layers constituting the multilayer board may be two or more.

(3) It is desirable that the components used in the present and

all the other embodiments do not have holes on the sides thereof so that a probe cannot be inserted into a hole on the side.

Embodiment 2

5 The present embodiment relates to a multilayer board in which if a signal line that requires tamper-resistance has a portion on one inside layer, the portion is sandwiched between sheets of foil on layers that are above and below the inside layer.

Construction

10 FIG. 3 shows the construction of a multilayer board in Embodiment 2. The same components in FIGs. 2 and 3 have the same numbers and will not be explained in detail here. Differences will be focused in the following description.

15 In the present embodiment, if a signal line that requires tamper-resistance has a portion on one inside layer, the portion is sandwiched between planes (sheets of foil) so that the signal line is protected from magnetic probing. More particularly, the foil 111 on the third layer 118 and the foil 112 on the fourth layer 119 are sandwiched between planes 201 and planes 202.

20 Summary

As described above, in the multilayer board of the present embodiment, sheets of foil that are placed on the inside layers and constitute such signal lines as require tamper-resistance

are sandwiched between planes on layers that are outside the inside layers. This provides a shielding effect and protects the signal line from non-contact probing such as magnetic probing, achieving a highly tamper-resistant multilayer board.

5 Variations

The present invention is not limited to the above-described embodiment and can be varied as follows.

- 10 (1) The plane 201 may be on any layer in so far as it is on a layer that is outside the layers having the sheets of foil 111 and 112 thereon, and may be on the first layer 116, for example. This applies to the plane 202, and therefore may be on the sixth layer 121, for example.
- (2) To increase the shielding effect, the planes 201 and 202 may be connected to a power source or a ground.
- 15 (3) The sheets of foil 111 and 112 may be sandwiched between components on an outside layer and planes on an inside layer. Also, the foil 111 and 112 may be sandwiched between components on the two outside layers.
- 20 (4) In the present embodiment, the target to be protected from non-contact probing is sheets of foil on inside layers. However, ends of vias that constitute a signal line that requires tamper-resistance may be sandwiched between components or sheets of foil, as well.

- 5 (5) In the present embodiment, the target to be protected from non-contact probing is portions of a signal line placed on inside layers. However, there is a case in which a portion of a signal line placed on an outside layer should be protected from non-contact probing that is performed from the opposite outside layer. To deal with the case, (a) the target portion of the signal line is placed in an area on the first layer, the area corresponding in the vertical direction to an area covered by a component on the sixth layer or an area covered by foil on an inside layer; or (b) the target portion of the signal line is placed in an area on the first layer, the area corresponding in the vertical direction to an area covered by foil on the second layer, for example.
- 10
- 15 (6) In Embodiments 1 and 2, portions of a certain signal line that requires tamper-resistance are placed under certain components or sandwiched between components or sheets of foil. However, this arrangement may be extended to all data signal lines and address signal lines of the multilayer board.
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Embodiment 3

The present embodiment relates to a design apparatus that determines a wiring pattern so that a certain signal line becomes

tamper-resistant, after positions of components are determined.

Construction

FIG. 4 is a block diagram showing the construction of a design apparatus in Embodiment 3. As shown in FIG. 4, the design apparatus 300 includes a command input unit 301, a data input unit 302, a command analyzing unit 303, an outside layer wiring setting unit 304, a via setting unit 305, an inside layer wiring setting unit 306, a wiring information generating unit 307, a design information storage unit 308, and a display unit 309.

FIG. 5A is a cross section of the multilayer board. FIG. 5B is a top plan view of the multilayer board. Now, the components of the design apparatus 300 will be described with reference to these drawings.

The display unit 309 displays design processes of a target wiring board on the screen.

The data input unit 302 inputs circuit diagram information and design information or the like which are created by using a CAD apparatus or the like. The design information includes board information, component information, and terminal information. FIG. 6A shows the board information. FIG. 6B shows the component information. FIG. 6C shows the terminal information. FIG. 6D shows signal line information.

The command input unit 301 may be a keyboard and/or a mouse

and is used by the user to input various design commands. The design command has the following command types: a component placement command, a wiring command, and a tamper-resistance specification command. It is supposed here that the

- 5 tamper-resistance specification command is input and a signal line 525 connecting a terminal 523 with a terminal 524 is specified as a signal line that requires tamper-resistance.

- The command analyzing unit 303 analyzes a design command input to the command input unit 301, and determines the command
10 type.

The design information storage unit 308 stores the circuit diagram information and the design information input by the data input unit 302.

- The outside layer wiring setting unit 304 refers to the
15 design information stored in the design information storage unit 308 and sets an area on an outside layer covered by a component as an outside layer wiring possible area.

- The via setting unit 305 refers to the design information stored in the design information storage unit 308, detects an
20 area where the outside area wiring possible area of a front outside layer (layer 1) overlaps the outside area wiring possible area of a back outside layer (layer 2), and sets the detected area as a via possible area in which a via used for wiring a

tamper-resistant signal line can be included.

The inside layer wiring setting unit 306 refers to the design information stored in the design information storage unit 308 and sets a wiring layer being an inside layer as an inside layer wiring possible area.

FIG. 7A shows an outside layer wiring possible area. FIG. 7B shows a via possible area. FIG. 7C shows an inside layer wiring possible area.

The wiring information generating unit 307 determines a wiring pattern so that signal lines that require tamper-resistance are wired only in the outside layer wiring possible areas, via possible areas, and inside layer wiring possible areas, and the other signal lines are wired in wiring possible areas, and generates wiring information that shows the determined wiring pattern. FIG. 8 shows generated wiring information.

Operation

The operation of the design apparatus of the present invention will be explained using the board shown in FIGs. 5A and 5B as an example.

FIG. 9 is a flowchart showing an operation procedure of the design apparatus of Embodiment 3.

The data input unit 302 inputs design information into

the design information storage unit 308 (step S401).

The command input unit 301 inputs a tamper-resistance specification command that specifies the signal line 525 as a signal line that requires tamper-resistance (step S402).

5 The outside layer wiring setting unit 304 refers to the design information, detects that areas 502, 504, and 506 are covered by the components 501, 503, and 505 on the first layer 513 being an outside layer of the board, and sets the areas 502, 504, and 506 as the outside layer wiring possible areas on the
10 first layer 513.

 The outside layer wiring setting unit 304 refers to the design information, detects that areas 508, 510, and 512 are covered by the components 507, 509, and 511 on the sixth layer 518 being another outside layer of the board, and sets the areas
15 508, 510, and 512 as the outside layer wiring possible areas on the sixth layer 518 (step S403).

 The via setting unit 305 detects that the areas 519, 520, and 521 are areas where the outside area wiring possible areas 502, 504, and 506 of the first layer overlaps the outside area
20 wiring possible areas 508, 510, and 512 of the sixth layer, and sets the areas 519, 520, and 521 as via possible areas (step S404).

 The inside layer wiring setting unit 306 sets the inside

layers 514 (the second layer), 515 (the third layer), 516 (the fourth layer), and 517 (the fifth layer) as inside layer wiring possible areas 522 (step S405).

5 The wiring information generating unit 307 determines a wiring pattern so that the signal line 525 that requires tamper-resistance is wired only in the outside layer wiring possible areas 502, 504, 506, 508, 510, and 512, via possible areas 519, 520, and 521, and inside layer wiring possible area 522 using the Lee's algorithm, and generates wiring information
10 that shows the determined wiring pattern (step S406).

Summary

As described above, the design apparatus of the present embodiment can determine a wiring pattern so that portions of the signal line that that require tamper-resistance are placed
15 under components on outside layers, after the positions of the components are determined. This makes it possible to design a highly tamper-resistant multilayer board having a signal line that is difficult to contact probing.

Variations

20 The present invention is not limited to the above-described embodiment and can be varied as follows.

(1) The present embodiment determines a wiring pattern so that portions (sheets of foil and via ends) of a signal line

that requires tamper-resistance are hidden under components on outside layers in order to make the signal line to be difficult to contact probing. However, to make the signal line to be difficult to non-contact probing as well, every portion of the signal line in and on the inside layers may be included in spaces that are overlaps among the areas covered by components on the two outside layers, when viewed from above and below, so that the portions of the signal line are hidden under the components when viewed from above and below.

Furthermore, it is possible to make the portions of the signal line on the first layer to become difficult to non-contact probing performed from the sixth layer, by placing the portions of the signal line on the first layer in an area that overlaps an area covered by a component on the sixth layer.

(2) In the present embodiment, the command input unit 301 specifies a signal line that requires tamper-resistance. However, the information specifying the signal line may be input as a part of the signal line information and stored in the design information storage unit 308.

(3) In the present embodiment, the wiring information generating unit 307 determines the wiring pattern using the Lee's algorithm. However, not limited to this, other methods may be used. Alternatively, the designer may determine the wiring

pattern manually.

Embodiment 4

The present embodiment relates to a design apparatus that determines a wiring pattern so that portions of the signal line
5 that requires tamper-resistance are wired on inside layers sandwiched between two ground/power-source layers.

Construction

FIG. 10 is a block diagram showing the construction of a design apparatus in Embodiment 4. As shown in FIG. 10, the
10 design apparatus 900 includes a command input unit 301, a data input unit 302, a command analyzing unit 303, an inter ground/power-source layers wiring detection unit 901, an inside layer wiring setting unit 902, a wiring information generating unit 903, a design information storage unit 904, and a display
15 unit 309. The same components in FIGs. 3 and 10 have the same numbers and will not be explained in detail here. Differences will be focused in the following description.

FIG. 11 shows a six-layer board. Now, the components of the design apparatus will be described with reference to FIG.
20 11.

The design information storage unit 904 stores the circuit diagram information and the design information input by the data input unit 302. The design information includes board

information, component information, and terminal information.
FIG. 12A shows the board information. As shown in FIG. 12A,
the board information contains information that indicates layers
designed as ground/power-source layers. FIG. 12B shows the
5 component information. FIG. 12C shows the terminal information.
FIG. 12D shows signal line information.

The inter ground/power-source layers wiring detection
unit 901 detects wiring layers that exist between
ground/power-source layers as inter ground/power-source
10 layers.

The inside layer wiring setting unit 902 sets the detected
inter ground/power-source layers as inside layer wiring possible
areas. FIG. 13 shows the inside layer wiring possible areas
set by the inside layer wiring setting unit 902. As shown in
15 FIG. 13, the third and fourth layers sandwiched between the
ground/power-source layers (the second layer and the fifth layer)
are set as the inside layer wiring possible areas.

The wiring information generating unit 903 determines a
wiring pattern so that signal lines that require
20 tamper-resistance are wired in the inside layer wiring possible
areas in terms of the inside layer, and generates wiring
information that shows the determined wiring pattern. FIG. 14
shows generated wiring information.

Operation

The operation of the design apparatus of the present invention will be explained using the board shown in FIGs. 12A through 12D as an example.

5 FIG. 15 is a flowchart showing an operation procedure of the design apparatus of Embodiment 4.

The data input unit 302 inputs design information into the design information storage unit 904 (step S1001).

10 The command input unit 901 inputs a tamper-resistance specification command that specifies the signal line 1155 as a signal line that requires tamper-resistance (step S1002). The inter ground/power-source layers wiring detection unit 901 refers to the design information and detects the third layer 1103 and the fourth layer 1104 that exist between the
15 ground/power-source layers (the second layer 1102 and the fifth layer 1105) as inter ground/power-source layers (step S1003).

The inside layer wiring setting unit 902 sets the third layer 1103 and the fourth layer 1104 as inside layer wiring possible areas (step S1004).

20 The wiring information generating unit 903 determines a wiring pattern so that the signal line 1155 that requires tamper-resistance includes a portion 1108 on the third layer 1103 being an inside layer wiring possible area, and generates

wiring information that shows the determined wiring pattern (step S1005).

Summary

As described above, the design apparatus of the present embodiment can determine a wiring pattern so that portions of the signal line that requires tamper-resistance are wired on inside layers sandwiched between two ground/power-source layers. This makes it possible to design a highly tamper-resistant multilayer board having a signal line that is difficult to non-contact probing.

Embodiment 5

The present embodiment relates to a design apparatus that determines positions of components connecting to a certain signal line, determines a wiring pattern of the certain signal line, and then if there is a portion of the signal line not hidden under a component on an outside layer, places a component, which has not been placed yet, to cover the exposed portion.

Construction

FIG. 16 is a block diagram showing the construction of a design apparatus in Embodiment 5. As shown in FIG. 16, the design apparatus 600 includes a command input unit 301, a data input unit 302, a display unit 309, a command analyzing unit 303, a component detecting unit 601, a placement information

generating unit 602, a wiring information generating unit 603, an exposed wiring detecting unit 604, and a design information storage unit 606. The same components in FIGs. 3 and 16 have the same numbers and will not be explained in detail here.

5 Differences will be focused in the following description.

FIGs. 17A to 17C show processes in designing a four-layer board. Now, the components of the design apparatus will be described with reference to FIGs. 17A to 17C.

The design information storage unit 606 stores the circuit
10 diagram information and the design information input by the data input unit 302. The design information includes board information, component information, and signal line information. FIG. 18A shows the board information. FIG. 18B shows the component information. FIG. 18C shows the signal line
15 information.

The command input unit 301 and the command analyzing unit 303 input and analyze a command that specifies a signal line that requires tamper-resistance among the signal lines shown in the signal line information. In this example, it is supposed
20 that a signal line 888 connecting a terminal 802 with a terminal 804 is specified as a signal line that requires tamper-resistance.

The component detecting unit 601 refers to the design

information and detects components that connect to the signal line that requires tamper-resistance. In this example, it is supposed that the components 801 and 802 that connect to the signal line 888 are detected.

5 The placement information generating unit 602 determines the positions of the components detected by the component detecting unit 601 so that the positions satisfy the designing conditions, and generates placement information that shows the determined positions. FIG. 19A shows the placement information
10 that shows the determined positions of the components connecting to the signal line that requires tamper-resistance. It should be noted here that in determining the positions of the components, the placement information generating unit 602 first assigns the position of exposed wiring detected by the exposed wiring
15 detecting unit 604 to a component, and generates placement information that shows the determined positions of the components. FIG. 21 shows the generated placement information.

20 The wiring information generating unit 603 determines a wiring pattern of signal lines that connect terminals, and generates wiring information that shows the determined wiring pattern. The wiring pattern may be determined manually by a designer or automatically determined using a wiring algorithm such as the Lee's algorithm. FIG. 19B shows the wiring

information.

The exposed wiring detecting unit 604 detects an exposed portion of the signal line among the signal lines of which the wiring information generating unit 603 has determined the wiring pattern, the exposed portion of the signal line being a portion outside an area covered by a component. FIG. 20 shows the exposed wiring.

Operation

The operation of the design apparatus of the present invention will be explained using the board designing processes shown in FIGs. 17A through 17C.

FIG. 22 is a flowchart showing an operation procedure of the design apparatus of Embodiment 5.

The data input unit 302 inputs design information into the design information storage unit 606 (step S701).

The command input unit 301 inputs a tamper-resistance specification command that specifies the signal line 888 connecting the terminal 802 and the terminal 804 as a signal line that requires tamper-resistance (step S702).

The component detecting unit 601 refers to the design information and detects the components 801 and 802 that connect to the signal line 888 that requires tamper-resistance (step S703).

The placement information generating unit 602 determines the positions of the components 801 and 802 so that the positions satisfy the designing conditions, and generates placement information that shows the determined positions (step S704).

- 5 Note that the positions may be anywhere on the board in so far as they satisfy the designing conditions.

The wiring information generating unit 603 determines a wiring pattern between the terminals 802 and 804, and generates wiring information that shows the determined wiring pattern.

- 10 The wiring pattern may be determined manually by a designer or automatically determined using a wiring algorithm such as the Lee's algorithm. In the case of the automatic determination, a conventional wiring algorithm such as the Lee's algorithm may be used in so far as the wiring algorithm satisfies the specified
- 15 wiring design standard. In this example, it is supposed that the terminal 802 is connected with the terminal 804 by the foil 805 on the first layer, the via 807, the foil 808 on an inside layer, the via 809, and the foil 810 on the fourth layer, as shown in FIG. 17A (step S705).

- 20 The exposed wiring detecting unit 604 detects an exposed portion of the signal line among the signal lines of which the wiring information generating unit 603 has determined the wiring pattern, the exposed portion of the signal line being a portion

outside an area covered by a component. In this example, it is supposed that the foil 811 and the via ends 812 and 813 on the first layer and the via end 819 on the fourth layer are detected as exposed wiring, as shown in FIG. 17B (step S706).

5 The placement information generating unit 602 determines the positions of the components by first assigning the position of exposed wiring, and generates placement information that shows the determined positions of the components. As shown in FIG. 17C, on the first layer, the component 814 is placed to cover
10 the foil 811 and the via end 812 that are the exposed wiring, and on the fourth layer, the component 815 is placed to cover the via end 819 being the exposed wiring, and on the first layer, the component 816 is placed to cover the via end 813 being the exposed wiring (step S707).

15 The wiring information generating unit 603 determines a wiring pattern of signal lines, and generates wiring information that shows the determined wiring pattern (step S708).

Summary

20 As described above, the design apparatus of the present embodiment (1) determines positions of components connecting to a signal line that requires tamper-resistance, (2) determines a wiring pattern of the signal line that requires tamper-resistance, then (3) if there is a portion of the signal

line not hidden under a component on an outside layer, places a component, which has not been placed yet, to cover the exposed portion. This makes it possible to design a highly tamper-resistant multilayer board having a signal line that is difficult to contact probing.

Variations

The present invention is not limited to the above-described embodiment and can be varied as follows.

- (1) The placement information generating unit 602 may place the component 801 connecting to the signal line that requires tamper-resistance onto the first layer, and place the component 803 on an area on the sixth layer that overlaps an area covered by the component 801 on the first layer, as shown in FIG. 23.
- (2) In the present embodiment, if there is a portion of the signal line (which requires tamper-resistance) not hidden under a component on an outside layer, the design apparatus determines a placement pattern so as to place a component, which has not been placed yet, to cover the exposed portion. This makes the signal line difficult to contact probing. However, to make the signal line difficult to non-contact probing as well, if there is a portion of the signal line in inside layers that is not sandwiched between components

on the two outside layers, the design apparatus may determine a placement pattern so as to place a component, which has not been placed yet, to be directly above or below the portion in inside layers.

5 Furthermore, if there is, on the first layer, a portion of the signal line not placed in an area which does not correspond to any component on the sixth layer (the opposite outside layer) in a vertical direction, the design apparatus may place a component on the sixth layer, which has not
10 been placed yet, to correspond to the area on the first layer to make the signal line difficult to non-contact probing.

(3) In the present embodiment, the design apparatus determines
15 (a) positions of components connecting to a signal line that requires tamper-resistance and (b) a wiring pattern of the signal line requiring tamper-resistance. However, the design apparatus may receive design information that specifies (a) positions of components connecting to a signal
20 line that requires tamper-resistance and (b) a wiring pattern of the signal line requiring tamper-resistance, then the design apparatus may determine position of a component which has not been placed yet, to cover an exposed portion of the signal line.

Embodiment 6

The present embodiment relates to a design apparatus that determines positions of planes so as to sandwich a portion of a signal line that requires tamper-resistance, the portion being placed on an inside layer, after a wiring pattern of the signal line is determined.

Construction

FIG. 24 is a block diagram showing the construction of a design apparatus in Embodiment 6. As shown in FIG. 24, the design apparatus 1200 includes a command input unit 301, a data input unit 302, a command analyzing unit 303, a tamper-resistant wiring area detecting unit 1201, a tamper-resistant ground/power-source layer detecting unit 1202, a tamper-resistant plane generating unit 1203, and a design information storage unit 1204. The same components in FIGs. 3 and 24 have the same numbers and will not be explained in detail here. Differences will be focused in the following description.

FIG. 25 shows a multilayer board. Now, the components of the design apparatus will be described with reference to FIG. 25.

The design information storage unit 1204 stores the circuit diagram information and the design information input by the data input unit 302. The design information includes board

information, component information, signal line information,
and terminal information. FIG. 26A shows the board information.
FIG. 26B shows the component information. FIG. 26C shows the
terminal information. FIG. 26D shows the signal line
5 information. FIG. 26E shows the wiring information.

The tamper-resistant wiring area detecting unit 1201
refers to the design information and detects a tamper-resistant
wiring area which is a wiring area in the inside layers and in
which a portion of a signal line that requires tamper-resistance
10 is placed. FIG. 27A shows the detected tamper-resistant wiring
area.

The tamper-resistant ground/power-source layer detecting
unit 1202 detects two inside layers that sandwich an inside layer
on which a portion of the signal line that requires
15 tamper-resistance is placed, and sets the detected layers as
the tamper-resistant ground/power-source layers. FIG. 27B
shows the tamper-resistant ground/power-source layers.

The tamper-resistant plane generating unit 1203 generates
plane placement information that indicates that planes (sheets
20 of foil) should be placed on the tamper-resistant
ground/power-source layers so as to sandwich the detected
tamper-resistant wiring area in a vertical direction. FIG. 28
shows the generated plane placement information.

Operation

The operation of the design apparatus of the present invention will be explained using the board shown in FIG. 25.

FIG. 29 is a flowchart showing an operation procedure of
5 the design apparatus of Embodiment 6.

The data input unit 302 inputs design information into the design information storage unit 1204 (step S1301).

The command input unit 301 inputs a tamper-resistance specification command that specifies the signal line 1455 as
10 a signal line that requires tamper-resistance (step S1302).

The tamper-resistant wiring area detecting unit 1201 detects a tamper-resistant wiring area 1404 (step S1303).

The tamper-resistant ground/power-source layer detecting unit 1202 detects the second layer 1401 and the fourth layer
15 1403 sandwiching the third layer 1402 on which a portion 1404 of the signal line that requires tamper-resistance is placed, and sets the detected layers as the tamper-resistant ground/power-source layers (step S1304).

The tamper-resistant plane generating unit 1203 generates
20 plane placement information that indicates that planes (sheets of foil) 1405 and 1406 should be placed on the tamper-resistant ground/power-source layers (namely, the second layer 1401 and the fourth layer 1403) so as to sandwich the detected

tamper-resistant wiring area (namely, an area containing the portion 1404) in a vertical direction (step S1305).

Summary

As described above, after a wiring pattern of a signal line that requires tamper-resistance is determined, the design apparatus of the present embodiment determines positions of planes so as to sandwich a portion of the signal line on an inside layer. This makes it possible to design a highly tamper-resistant multilayer board having a signal line that is difficult to non-contact probing.

Variations

The present invention is not limited to the above-described embodiment and can be varied as follows.

(1) In the present embodiment, the planes sandwiching a portion of the signal line that requires tamper-resistance are not connected to a ground or a power source. However, to enhance the shielding effect, the planes may be connected to a ground or a power source.

Embodiment 7

The present embodiment relates to a wiring check apparatus that checks whether a wiring pattern has been designed so that a signal line that requires tamper-resistance has tamper-resistance, in the middle of or after a design of a

multilayer board.

Construction

FIG. 30 is a block diagram showing the construction of a wiring check apparatus in Embodiment 7. As shown in FIG. 30, the wiring check apparatus 1500 includes a command input unit 301, a data input unit 302, a command analyzing unit 303, an exposed wiring detecting unit 1501, a warning message generating unit 1502, a display unit 309, and a design information storage unit 1503.

The same components in FIGs. 3 and 30 have the same numbers and will not be explained in detail here. Differences will be focused in the following description.

FIGs. 31A and 31B show a multilayer board. Now, the components of the design apparatus will be described with reference to FIGs. 31A and 31B.

The design information storage unit 1503 stores the circuit diagram information and the design information input by the data input unit 302. The design information includes board information, component information, and terminal information. FIG. 32A shows the board information. FIG. 32B shows the component information. FIG. 32C shows the terminal information. FIG. 32D shows the signal line information. As shown in FIG. 32D, the signal line information contains information that

indicates whether the signal line requires tamper-resistance.

FIG. 32E shows the wiring information.

The exposed wiring detecting unit 1501 refers to the design information and detects (a) sheets of foil and via ends that constitute a signal line that requires tamper-resistance and appear on an outside layer and (b) area on the outside layer covered by components. The exposed wiring detecting unit 1501 then detects sheets of foil and via ends that are not covered by any components on the outside layer and are called exposed wiring, and sends exposed wiring information indicating the exposed foil and via ends to the warning message generating unit 1502. FIG. 33 shows the exposed wiring information.

The warning message generating unit 1502 generates a warning message in accordance with the exposed wiring information received from the exposed wiring detecting unit 1501.

The display unit 309 displays the warning message generated by the warning message generating unit 1502. FIG. 31B shows an example of a displayed warning message.

Operation

The operation of the wiring check apparatus of the present invention will be explained using the board shown in FIG. 31.

FIG. 34 is a flowchart showing an operation procedure of the wiring check apparatus of Embodiment 7.

The data input unit 302 inputs design information into the design information storage unit 1503 (step S1601).

The exposed wiring detecting unit 1501 refers to the design information and detects foil 1701 and a via end 1703 that
5 constitute a signal line that requires tamper-resistance and appear on an outside layer, and detects a covered area 1706 covered by a component 1705 on the outside layer.

The exposed wiring detecting unit 1501 then detects foil 1707 and a via end 1709 that are exposed wiring not included
10 in the covered area 1706, and sends exposed wiring information indicating the exposed foil 1707 and via end 1709 to the warning message generating unit 1502 (step S1602).

The warning message generating unit 1502 generates a warning message in accordance with the exposed wiring
15 information received from the exposed wiring detecting unit 1501 (step S1603).

The display unit 309 displays the warning message 1708 generated by the warning message generating unit 1502 (step S1604).

20 Summary

As described above, the wiring check apparatus of the present embodiment detects a portion of a signal line that requires tamper-resistance but is not covered by any components

on an outside layer, and displays a warning message that indicates the detected portion. This enables one to check if a tamper-resistant design has been done.

Variations

5 The present invention is not limited to the above-described embodiment and can be varied as follows.

10 (1) The warning message shown in FIG. 31B is one example. The message may be displayed by highlighting or using a different color for the exposed wiring 1707. Data such as the layer on which the exposed wiring 1707 exists or the coordinates of the position may be output to file.

15 (2) In the present embodiment, the wiring check apparatus detects a portion of a signal line that requires tamper-resistance but is not covered by any components on an outside layer, and displays a warning message that indicates the detected portion. As one variation, if a signal line that requires tamper-resistance has, on one inside layer, a portion that is not sandwiched between components or sheets of foil on the outside layers, a warning message indicating the portion may be displayed.

20 Furthermore, as another variation, if a signal line requiring tamper-resistance has a portion on one outside layer and the opposite outside layer has no component that

corresponds to the area in the vertical direction, a warning message indicating the portion may be displayed.

(3) The present invention may be a design method or a wiring check method having the steps described in the above
5 embodiments. The present invention may be a computer program that allows a computer to execute these methods. The present invention may be a computer-readable recording medium on which the program is recorded.

10 Although the present invention has been fully described by way of examples with reference to the accompanying drawings, it is to be noted that various changes and modifications will be apparent to those skilled in the art. Therefore, unless such changes and modifications depart from the scope of the present
15 invention, they should be construed as being included therein.